

# The Advisor

The Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq's Official Weekly Command Information Report

## Moving day

Coalition cash  
helps Iraqi citizens  
find new homes



April 2, 2005

# MNSTC-I

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**Cover: As Iraq's Ministry of Interior reclaims property occupied by squatters, the agency is relying on Coalition assistance in relocating families to make way for Security Force units in need of operating bases.**  
Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

# President lauds Iraqi spirit

By John D. Banusiewicz

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush cited “encouraging signs” in Iraq and expressed confidence in the country’s future in remarks from the White House’s Rose Garden March 29 after meeting with a group of Iraqis who voted in the Jan. 30 elections.

“We have seen many encouraging signs in Iraq,” Bush said. “The world has watched Iraqi women vote in enormous numbers. The world has seen more than 80 women take their seats as elected representatives in the new assembly. We’ve also seen the beginnings of a new national dialogue, as leaders who did well in the last election have reached out to Sunnis who did not participate.”

Bush praised the Iraqi people’s courage in turning out to vote Jan. 30 despite a relentless intimidation campaign waged by enemies of a free Iraq.

“I commend the more than eight million Iraqis who defied the car bombers and assassins to vote that day,” he said. “I appreciate the determination of the Iraqi electoral workers who withstood threats and intimidation to make a transparent election possible. I salute the courageous Iraqi security forces who risked their lives to protect voters.”

The president called Iraq’s election of a 275-member transitional national assembly “another bold step toward self-government.”

“Today,” he said, “Iraqis took another step on the road to a free society when the assembly held its second meeting. We expect a new govern-

ment will be chosen soon and that the assembly will vote to confirm it. We look forward to working with the government that emerges from this process. We’re confident that this new government will be inclusive, will respect human rights, and will uphold fundamental freedoms for all Iraqis.”

Bush praised the Iraqi people’s spirit in overcoming oppression to embark on the road to self-government. “In forming their new government, the Iraqis have shown that the spirit of compromise has survived more than three decades of dictatorship,” the president said. “They will need that spirit in the weeks and months ahead, as they continue the hard work of building their democracy.” He noted that the transitional assembly will choose leaders and draft a constitution the country will vote on in October, and later Iraqis will return to the polls to select a permanent government under that constitution.

Even as Iraq moves closer to democracy, its security forces are stepping up to the task before them, Bush said.

Elections alone, though, won’t carry Iraq all the way to true democracy, the president noted.

“A free society requires more than free elections; it also requires free institutions, a vibrant civil society, rule of law, anti-corruption, and the habits of liberty built over generations,” Bush said. “By claiming their own freedom, the Iraqis are transforming the region, and they’re doing it by example and inspiration, rather than by conquest and domination. The free people of Iraq are now doing what Saddam Hussein never could -- making Iraq a positive example for the entire Middle East.

**“People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built.” — Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)**



# General's adviser is driven to make a difference

By U.S. Army Capt. Tim Jeffers  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

Sadi Othman knows how to drive, although most of the driving around here is left to the personal security details. He has driven the lane on the hardwood court and he has driven some remarkable miles in New York City.

But for the past two years, Othman has been driving home the importance of relationships and the message of effective communications with high-level Iraqi military and government leaders as an adviser and linguist for Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

At 6-feet, 7-inches, Othman is not a small man. He often looks “over the dashboard” to foresee problems coming down the road. He almost always resolves them before many on the general's staff even knew they were coming. That is why those working at MNSTC-I count on him as a trusted adviser and true friend.

Born in Brazil, Othman grew up in Jordan, Palestine. At the age of seven, he found himself traveling to the other side of the world with his widowed mother, Zakieh, two brothers and a sister. His father, Mohamad, died when he was three years old. Othman attended an American Mennonite boarding school in Jordan, where he learned English and Arabic. Upon high school graduation, Othman briefly attended the University of Jordan. In his drive for better opportunities, he excelled in basketball and eventually secured a place on the National Team, where he was the first native Jordanian to dunk a basketball in 1976.

Othman followed his family to the United States and became a citizen in 1977. He gained experience in a number of employment fields, including driving a taxi, selling health and beauty aids, and working in the deli and supermarket business. Always hoping to get back on track with his education, Othman returned to school and graduated from Hesston College, a Mennonite school in Kansas, in 1993.

Upon graduation, Othman returned to NYC and ran a successful deli business. Although he was quite happy and successful with it, he was still driven by a passion for taxi driving. He sold his deli business, and got back behind the wheel, observing and interacting with stimulating



During a February visit to an Iraqi mechanized brigade in Taji, Sadi Othman translates as U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus thanks the soldiers and officers for their service to their country and for a job well done on Election Day.

people and their interesting stories every day.

His journey back to the Middle East began when a friend referred Othman to a company that recruits linguists and cultural advisers for the U.S. Army. The company was interested in his language skills and cultural abilities, so Othman agreed to a battery of tests, background checks, interviews, and physical examinations. He was accepted by the company and sent to Fort Benning, Ga. for training and briefings, then deployed to Kuwait on April 19, 2003. Shortly after, he was picked at random by the 101st Airborne Division and sent to Mosul, Iraq. By coincidence, Othman arrived on nearly the same day as Petraeus, then a major general commanding the division.

Othman immediately went to work for Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, assistant division commander for operations, where he would get to know his future boss quite well. He performed a variety of important duties for both Helmick and Petraeus right up until they left Mosul in February 2004.

“My experience with the 101<sup>st</sup> left a positive impact on my life and influenced the way I view the military,” Othman said.

Although he had met many interesting people in his life, he had had no prior experience with the military. “I love soldiers, because they are DO-ers and they are faithful to those who work with them,” Othman said.

Othman had agreed to stay on and assist the new commander until early April 2004, when he would return to the United States and take a job with the same company performing similar duties. However, through daily e-mail contact, Petraeus asked Othman to join him for a new challenge in April 2004 – the standing-up and training of Iraqi Security Forces.

“I proudly accepted the position of special assistant/linguist and am very proud to be considered one of his senior advisers,” Othman said of his relationship with Petraeus.

Othman joined Petraeus in Mosul on April 19, 2004 to accompany a contingent of Coalition officials to a series

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## Othman

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of meetings with Iraqi leaders in the north and in Baghdad.

Throughout the tour, Othman was on hand as leaders assessed security conditions throughout Iraq. From that point on, Othman has been an integral part of the MNSTC-I command.

"Sadi Othman is a national asset. He was a vital part of the command group in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division during our 10 months in northern Iraq, and he has been a critical element in just about all our efforts with our Iraqi partners in carrying out our current missions," said Petraeus. "He has been much more than just a highly skilled interpreter."

Othman's job as an interpreter and liaison for Petraeus is no easy task, especially in situations where communications between the Iraqi military and government leaders rests solely on him.

"I enjoy interacting with both American and Iraqi leadership



Sadi Othman translates for U.S. Sen. Harry Reid after a delegation of U.S. Senators watched a training demonstration by members of an Iraqi Emergency Response Unit. Reid thanked them for their service.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

and being able to bridge any gap of misunderstanding between both sides," Othman said. "In effect, you are driving the process...completely. An accurate translation, interpretation and inflection are critical, especially in sensitive discussions."

When asked to describe Petraeus, Othman offers the following: "He is a very, very hard-working and dear friend. He is a man who really cares about people. On the day of the election, I walked in to see him and he was really, really moved. He remembered the sacrifice of his Soldiers in the north and throughout this struggle, and seemed to be reassured by the wonder of the moment, marked by the historic election experience."

Today, Othman can be seen in the company of the general taking notes and reassuring other staff members. He is a calming presence, but not one to take lightly. When asked about the most challenging part of his job he responded, "To say 'no' to some of our Iraqi brothers and sisters when they ask for favors that I know we cannot deliver. But it is the way that I say no that counts."

Although he stands tall at the Phoenix Base, there are few individuals more approachable and more at ease with themselves than Othman. That is what makes him so effective. "I've always known that I had certain gifts...but I did not have the opportunities in the past to take advantage of and demonstrate these gifts," he said. "Now I am using my skills and am able to help (Petraeus) and the team with the mission. This job has reaffirmed that I have a contribution to make and can make things happen."

Othman will stay at the wheel here in Baghdad assuring and guiding effective communications as long as he is needed. Although a proud American, he has made a difference in this historic mission and has honored his family and his beloved Jordan in the process.

As for the future, "I'll cross that bridge when I get to it," says the veteran driver. He has helped people get to where they are going for many years now, including Petraeus and the Iraqi people. Maybe this time, he's going to let someone else do the navigating.

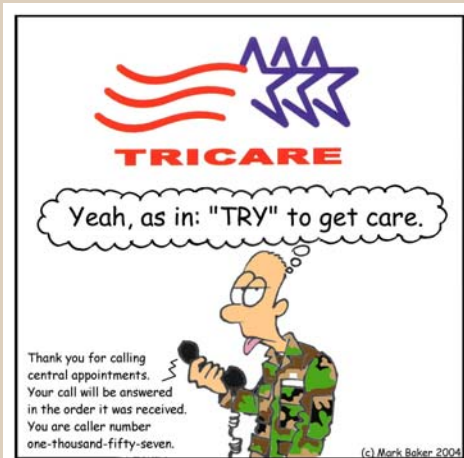
# The Advisor

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Appropriate submissions include the important developments in your section / unit that would be of interest to our readership, comments on the newsletter, experiences, etc.

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# Coalition Forces assist Iraqi officials reclaiming property

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – As the Iraqi government continues to reestablish itself, officials are calling on Coalition Forces to assist them in reclaiming properties that fell to ruins after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

When the Iraqi government collapsed in 2003, a number of buildings and complexes were left vacant after workers left their jobs. Those properties were soon occupied by squatters - citizens looking for free living accommodations.

Now, government agencies like the Ministry of Interior, who still owns the properties, are taking them back. They need the building and complexes to house the country's growing security forces, officials said.

A team of representatives from the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq has been assisting the MOI recently with relocating the squatters. Coalition officials are providing enough money to give each family \$500 to help them find another place to live, said U.S. Army Col. Mike Rorex, deputy chief for MNSTC-I's J-7 engineering section.



U.S. Army Col. Mike Rorex talks with Iraqi citizens who moved into a compound owned by the Ministry of Interior shortly after the government collapsed in 2003. MOI is seeking help from the Coalition in reclaiming its property.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

The money comes from funds set aside for the rebuilding of Iraq; using it to pay the squatters is considered humanitarian relief, officials said.

At each site, the money is handed out by MOI-hired contractors. Coalition Forces accompany them to assist Iraqi



Iraqi citizens crowd the courtyard of a compound they took over after the Iraqi government collapsed in 2003. The Ministry of Interior is reclaiming the property; Coalition members are assisting by paying the people to leave.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

police forces with security.

"It's an Iraqi issue, we're just there to help," Rorex said. "So far, families have accepted the money and understand they must leave. We haven't had to physically remove anyone."

On a recent 'squatter mission,' a little more than 300 families were paid at a Baghdad site called Alamin. Before 2003, it was a police complex with several multi-leveled buildings surrounded by a concrete wall. The complex is overflowing now with people of all ages who have turned it into a gated community of sorts. Cars and bicycles are parked outside buildings; satellite dishes populate the roofs, with televisions in nearly every room. Laundry hangs outside to dry and electrical wires drape across the tops of buildings and over the open courtyard.

The wires, officials said, are tapping into the city's main electrical grid to provide the complex with free electricity.

As the MOI and Coalition team arrived, some families already had their belongings packed in vehicles. Over a period of about three hours, they lined up to pick up envelopes containing the cash, in U.S. currency. Officials used a list of names they collected on an earlier visit to determine who would get the money. Each person collecting relocation money was required to provide identification.

A public order battalion will use the complex as their headquarters, said U.S. Maj. Marc D'Auria, a basing officer with MNSTC-I who helps find locations for Iraqi forces to work from. A number of battalion members were on-hand during the mission to help maintain order.

D'Auria said there are probably 100 other sites similar to Alamin, owned by MOI but occupied by squatters. Iraqi military leaders familiar with the area know where the sites are and assist in scouting locations for military units, he said.

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## Squatters

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At one site, the people who moved in were using the building as a mosque. They were not asked to leave, D'Auria said. On the same day the team visited Alamin, they also went to a building next to a police station in an area called Suleikh, where they paid 11 families to leave. The day before, roughly 350 families were paid to leave Baladiat, another former police compound.

Coalition officials are careful not to get too involved in the process of MOI reclaiming its property, but at the same time, Rorex said the joint aspect of the efforts is critical to a successful outcome.

"The biggest thing I've seen after going through this process is that it has to be a joint effort between the Coalition and Iraqis," Rorex said. "If not, it will fail. The squatters will trust both of us together, but not either one individually."

Members of an Iraqi Public Order Battalion make sure citizens remain orderly as they await payment, with assistance from U.S. Soldiers (upper right); Iraqi women take a break in the shade with their children (far right); U.S. Army Capt. Calvin Miner, of MNSTC-I's J-7 engineering section, plays with a baby (right); a Public Order Battalion soldier stops to greet a young boy (bottom right); young Iraqi women watch the courtyard activity from a balcony.

Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell





# Rewards program offers cash for information

**By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell**  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Nearly \$2,000 in cash rewards went to Iraqi citizens in March for providing information that led Coalition Forces to hidden weapons, munitions and suspected insurgents.

The money comes from the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's small rewards program, which started in January. Funded with \$60,000, awards totaling \$9,500 have been distributed so far, according to program records.

Units or adviser support teams in the field nominate individuals they believe are deserving of compensation for information that proves valuable. The nominations are sent to the program's review board for consideration.

"We convene the board whenever there's something to decide on. There is no set schedule," said U.S. Army Col. Michele Altierre, program coordinator and deputy staff judge advocate for MNSTC-I.

The review board is made up of one representative each from MNSTC-I's J-2, J-3, J-8 and SJA sections; Chief of Staff U.S. Army Col. James Laufenburg chairs the board.

Rewards range from \$100 to

\$2,500. Recommendations above that amount are forwarded to Multi-National Forces – Iraq for consideration. Only foreign nationals are eligible for the program, which includes members of Iraq's Security Forces. U.S. and Coalition Forces are not eligible, nor are U.S. civilians or contractors.

All information about the people nominated for the rewards is kept confidential, Altierre said.

The largest reward given so far was \$2,000, handed out in February to a citizen who led authorities to three separate weapons caches.

In the latest meeting of the review board, six nominations from an adviser with MNSTC-I's Coalition Military Assistance Training Team in Fallujah were approved. A man who took Coalition advisers to a residence March 2, where they found three rocket-propelled grenades, a 57 mm rocket and mortar charges buried in the yard, will get a \$500 reward. The man's information also led to the capture of a suspected insurgent.

Other rewards were approved for:

A citizen who led a Coalition team to a site March 7 where they found two 107mm mortar tubes, a bag of plastic explosives and another bag of accelerant will receive \$100.

A man who provided information that led to the March 23 and 24 recovery of a rocket-propelled grenade, three RPG launchers, eight RPG chargers and 10 assorted grenades will get a \$500 reward.

On March 15, a citizen went to an Iraqi police station to tell authorities of a bomb being planted within range of harming Coalition Forces. Authorities found what appeared to be an old improvised explosive device made up of three explosive rounds ranging in size from 115mm to 240 mm, with a newly-placed command detonation wire. The citizen was given \$20 on the spot, but will receive an additional \$250 reward.

The possible construction of another bomb was discovered March 23 when a Fallujah citizen led authorities to a site within the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Iraqi Army's area of operation. They found five 85mm mortars. The informant received \$10, food and water at the time of the discovery; the review board approved additional payment of \$200.

A Dragonoff sniper rifle with day and night scopes was recovered from a hiding spot less than 1,000 meters from an Iraqi operating base March 23. The citizen who led authorities to the weapon will receive a \$250 reward.

## Scottish MOD police trainer earns award for work in Iraq



Chief Inspector Mel Goudie monitors actions at the Baghdad Police Academy with Mike Denham (right), head of security.  
Photo courtesy Ministry of Defence Police press office

### Ministry of Defence Police Press Office

GLASGOW, Scotland – A Scottish Ministry of Defence police officer has picked up a national award for his work in helping rebuild Iraq. Chief Inspector Mel Goudie won the Emergency Services category of the Daily Record newspaper's 'Our Heroes' 2005 award.

British television star Colin McCre-

die presented Goudie with his award at a gala ceremony at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow, Scotland March 21.

The awards aim to recognize the dedication and courage of the people who make Scotland great. Goudie was honored for his work as the director of the Baghdad Police Academy.

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# Troop-strength assessment in Iraq expected this summer

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**By Donna Miles**

American Forces Press Service

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WASHINGTON – The commander of Multinational Force - Iraq is expected to assess the situation on the ground in mid-summer to recommend how many troops are required to sustain operations in Iraq, Air Force Lt. Gen. Lance L. Smith, deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, said March 30.

Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. will assess a variety of factors, from progress in training up the Iraqi security forces to the level of insurgent activity, to determine the plausibility of reducing U.S. force strength, currently at 145,500, Smith told Pentagon wire service reporters here.

An equally important factor will be upcoming activities in Iraq, including the Aug. 15 target date for drafting the con-

stitution, the Oct. 15 deadline for a referendum to approve the constitution, and the mid-December schedule for elections for the new Iraqi government.

At this point, it's unclear whether Casey will recommend drawing down the force, then boosting it back up for the elections, or "to just hold the line" through the elections, Smith said. He pointed to a similar situation in Afghanistan, in which the U.S. planned its troop rotations to coincide with the national elections to ensure a plussed-up, experienced force capable of handling a potential surge in violence.

Once these milestones are reached in Iraq, Smith said there's agreement between Casey and other U.S. officials

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**Goudie**

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Goudie has headed up a team of more than 100 British and American police officers that has been working with the Iraqi Police Service for the past 18 months to train thousands of cadets.

"I am very humbled to have received this award. But this is not just for me it is for every person who works at the academy," said Goudie. "It is for the British and American police officers and the cadets who put their lives on the line to help build a better Iraq for the future. This award is for every one of them."

Normally based at the MOD Police headquarters in Wethersfield, Essex, Goudie has been in Baghdad since November 2003 after being selected to help with the restructuring and training of the Iraqi Police Service.

"My main responsibility has been to recruit and train 24,000 Iraqi students in this current year," he said. "We have 1,000 students passing through the academy every two weeks on a staggered training program."

Students attend an eight-week training course that includes police firearms training, general policing duties, Iraqi law, statement taking, witness interviewing and human rights training.

"No one is saying they are fully trained police officers at the end of the course. As with any other police force, we aim to equip them with the skills they need to gain the necessary experience on the job," said Goudie.

"Many of the students who pass through here consider us mentors and come back for advice. They tell us what they are doing and what jobs they have had. It's really very pleasing for us to get this feedback from them as it is ob-

viously difficult for us to visit them," he added.

Goudie understands that some of the students who pass through his doors will not live to come back later. "A number of them have been murdered. But others keep on coming, from all walks of life. When you speak to them, they all say they are very keen to do something to protect their children," he said.

The rewards he gets from the job make it worthwhile, Goudie said.

"The vast majority are delighted we have come here and are trying to help them after more than 30 years of problems," he said. "The satisfaction we get in knowing that we are making a difference here is enormous. There is no greater feeling than seeing a raw recruit come through the door and eight weeks later head off for their first job full of enthusiasm and a desire to put into practice what they have learned."

Goudie also knows the importance of the contributions the new Iraqi Police Service is making in rebuilding of the country.

"It is very important to create an environment where people in Iraq believe they are safe and able to go about their business," he said. "If we can't do that, then all our work here will not come to fruition."

Goudie was nominated for the award by Chief Inspector Jim Gillen, head of the Ministry of Defence Police's International Policing and Secondments Office.

"I had no hesitation in putting Mel up for this award and I am delighted to hear he has won it," Gillen said. "He is a great example of the work MDP officers have achieved while working abroad in often dangerous conditions."



# Iraqis, not coalition, must defeat insurgents, Rumsfeld says

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – “In the last analysis it will be the Iraqi people that will defeat the insurgency, not the coalition,” Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told reporters here March 29.

Speaking at a Pentagon press briefing with Joint Chiefs Vice Chairman Marine Gen. Peter Pace at his side, Rumsfeld’s statement was part of his response to a reporter’s query on what options the United States possessed in ending the insurgency in Iraq.

The secretary said he didn’t “see a lot of options to end the insurgency” in Iraq, but instead envisioned “steps that one needs to take that will reduce the insurgency.”

Iraqi leaders continue their work to establish a new, democratic government. Meanwhile, ongoing military, political, economic and other types of assistance provided to Iraq by the

United States and coalition nations, Rumsfeld observed, “is going to create an environment that’s hospitable to the Iraqi people’s success.”

When the Iraqi people fully realize they have a voice and a stake in their nation’s affairs, Rumsfeld noted, then that event “should have the effect of reducing the insurgency.”

And a recovering Iraqi economy that produces more jobs, he said, should also contribute to “reducing support for the insurgency and increasing support for the Iraqi government.”

Rumsfeld also noted that the training and fielding of well-led Iraqi counterinsurgency forces also “contributes to reducing the insurgency.”

There are “a lot of things right now,” Pace pointed out, that make you hopeful about the way ahead in



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld gets a briefing on the Iraqi Security Forces during a February visit.

MNSTC-I file photo

Iraq.”

Asked about reports that Iraqi leaders are negotiating with some insurgency chiefs, Rumsfeld replied: “That’s up to the Iraqi people” and “they’re going to have to make those judgments.”

The Iraqi people, the secretary concluded, are going to have to decide through their government “what is the limit to their tolerance for embracing people back into the Iraqi community.”

## Assessment

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that U.S. troop numbers in Iraq can be ramped down and shaped, with troops either returning home or relocating elsewhere in the region. The consensus, Smith said, is that “we can have a smaller force size this time next year than we have now.”

This decision, however, is dependent on the level of violence in Iraq and the ability of the Iraqi security forces to handle it, Smith said.

Mid-summer is probably the earliest after Iraq’s Jan. 30 elections to accurately evaluate “where the insurgency is going,” he said. The current rate, down slightly since the elections, is likely the result of Iraqis’ growing anger over violence and increasing willingness to cooperate with the coalition and Iraqi

troops, and successes among Iraq’s security forces, Smith said.

“The Iraqi security forces seem to have a self-confidence that they didn’t have before,” and leaders are stepping forward despite “great risk to their lives,” Smith said after returning from Iraq last week. “The intimidation and assassination campaign on the part of the insurgents has not gone away. I can’t tell if it’s increasing, but it certainly does not look like it’s increasing.”

So far, 151,000-plus Iraqis security forces have been trained and equipped, 84,000 for the Ministry of the Interior and 67,000 for the Ministry of Defense, Smith said. And these numbers continue to climb, with 14,000 troops in training and another 35,000 in uniform, waiting for their training to begin.

“So there is a lot of activity in the building of the Iraqi security forces over there,” Smith said. “They are actively engaged in operations ... And a lot of it, they are doing with minimal assistance from the coalition.”

The big question, Smith said, is whether the insurgency will remain at its current rate or increase, and how ready the Iraqi forces will be to take the lead in confronting it.

“As Iraqi security forces are better able to replace our forces and allow us to step back and be quick-reaction forces, we are able to look at our forces and shape them differently than they are right now,” Smith said. “In other words: Bring some troops home or put them in some different place in the region.”

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Joint operation nets 88 suspected insurgents

NORTHERN BABIL – A joint operation between Iraqi and Coalition forces in Salman Park March 29 resulted in 88 suspected insurgents held for questioning, 66 of which were detained, according to multinational forces reports.

Coalition forces worked with a 625-man element from the 8<sup>th</sup> Division of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi SWAT teams from Hillah to conduct near-simultaneous air and ground assaults on five separate objectives to break up insurgent networks in Northern Babil. Officials described the effort as one of the most well-synchronized joint operations ever, one that demonstrated the Iraqi Security Forces ability to conduct complex operations with multiple elements and platforms in limited visibility.



Iraqi graduates from the Center South Academy perform skills they learned at the academy during an "assault" demonstration on March 28, 2005, at Camp Delta, in Al Kut, Iraq.  
U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Arthur Hamilton

## Milestone Iraqi Air Force flight takes off

TALLIL – An Iraqi flight crew from Squadron 23, Iraqi Air Force, aboard an Iraqi C-130 transported 51 Department of Border Enforcement soldiers from training in the United Arab Emirates and returned them to Iraq on 1 April.

The milestone of this mission was the fact that the Iraqi flight crew prepared the necessary requirements to fly in international airspace, land in a foreign country, and performed all of

the flight crew functions. Coalition trainers served as observers for the flight.

## Iraqi, Coalition soldiers working to help child

TAJI – A security detachment with the Iraqi Army's 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion worked together with Coalition advisers to bring a young boy and his father to an Iraqi army clinic today for an examination by a pediatric cardiac specialist, according to a multinational forces report.

The specialist diagnosed the child with a congenital heart malformation; advisers are researching treatment possibilities for the boy.

A team medic came across the boy last month while accompanying Iraqi soldiers on a cordon and search operation through a village south of Taji. The medic recognized the boy was suffering serious health problems and worked with advisers and Iraqi security forces to bring a specialist to the clinic, as well as coordinate transportation for the boy and his father.

## Attacks leave several insurgents dead

MOSUL – Separate attacks on the 101<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Iraqi Army on March 27 left three insurgents dead and two wounded, according to multinational forces reports.

In the first attack, at a traffic check point, insurgents in four vehicles began shooting at soldiers as they drove by. Iraqi soldiers fired back, stopping a black Nissan and killing its two occupants. They continued firing at the other three vehicles – a red Mazda, light blue Opel Victra, and a gray Chrysler – wounding two occupants in the Mazda. One Iraqi soldier was wounded during the incident and treated at a nearby aid station.

The second attack involved two rocket-propelled grenades fired at a gate to an operating base. Iraqi soldiers went into an adjacent neighborhood, where they killed one attacker and possibly wounded a second.

Five Iraqi soldiers were wounded in the attack.

Elsewhere in Mosul, a citizen tip led soldiers with the Iraqi Army's 106<sup>th</sup> Battalion to a weapons cache consisting of 70 57mm rockets and a number of artillery fuses. Soldiers with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Iraqi Intervention Force also discovered four hand grenades in a shed.

## Iraqi Forces uncover massive weapons cache

NAJAF – A tip from a local citizen led Iraqi police to a substantial stash of weapons and ammunition hidden in six rooms of an area shrine and in a basement catacomb of a partially collapsed building, according to a multinational forces report.

Police officers have been excavating the site since March 12. Much of the ordnance was buried, requiring officers to dig through and beneath the catacomb.

The cache includes six anti-tank mines, two anti-tank missiles, four improvised explosive devices, 23 rocket-propelled grenades, 207 mortar rounds ranging from 60mm to 160mm in size, 137 PG 15 cartridges, 35 rockets of various types and sizes, several rocket launchers and approximately 3,000 rounds of ammunition.

## Raids net suspected insurgents

MOSUL – Two raids conducted by Iraqi Intervention Force soldiers March 27 resulted in the detainment of six suspected insurgents – including two possible high value targets, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi soldiers with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade detained four suspects during a raid, while Iraqi soldiers with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Companies, 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade brought in two possible high-value targets from a coffee shop raid, the report said.



# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Vehicle search reveals blank ID cards

KIRKUK – Iraqi police officers manning a traffic control point here discovered dozens of blank citizenship identification cards while searching a vehicle March 27, according to a multinational forces report.

The officers found 60 blank identification cards, 135 birth certificates, 35 blank car registration forms, 120 other vehicle registration forms and eight license plates. Officials are investigating whether the material was intended for criminal use.

## Citizen information leads Iraqi Police to IED

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police officers from the Al Sha'ab Police Station discovered an improvised explosive device planted inside a fire extinguisher March 28, according to a multinational forces report.

The discovery was based on information local citizens provided to an Iraqi police community patrol. The police destroyed the IED with a controlled explosion.

## Iraqi Police arrest suspected terrorists

TIKRIT – A house raid by members of an Iraqi SWAT team resulted in the March 28 arrest of four men found with \$60,000 in U.S. currency.

Three of the suspects are Egyptian and one is Iraqi, according to a multinational forces report.

## Iraqi Security Forces detain suspects

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Intervention Force soldiers detained four suspected insurgents in the southeast section of the city, one of whom was identified as Egyptian, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers detained 15 suspected insurgents after clearing a village

near Ar Rustamiyah during a route security mission March 28. Local residents provided information on insurgent activity to the soldiers, members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division.

Soldiers with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division captured six suspected insurgents outside the gate to Ar Rustamiyah March 28. An AK-47 automatic rifle, pistol and ski mask were confiscated from the suspects.

## Iraqi citizen reports weapons cache

SAMARRA – An Iraqi Ministry of Interior patrol recovered a large weapons cache buried on farm land after a man reported its location, according to a multinational forces report.

The cache included three anti-tank mines, four 152mm rounds, five rocket-propelled grenade launchers, six rocket-propelled grenade rounds, two AK-47 automatic rifles, four vests with plates, 25 blasting caps, propellant and a rifle.

## IIF soldiers capture suspect, munitions

MOSUL – Iraqi soldiers on a cordon and search operation engaged an enemy force after a hand grenade was tossed in their direction as they entered a residence, according to a multinational forces report.

The hand grenade bounced off a wall and ended up injuring a suspected insurgent during the March 30 operation by the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the IIF.

The soldiers detained one suspect, killed one and wounded two. They also confiscated 12 grenades, 11 rocket-propelled grenades, a video camera with 10 cassettes and numerous cellular telephones. A palm tree outside the home was rigged with three 152mm South African artillery rounds. An explosive ordnance disposal team was called to the residence to remove the munitions.

## Security patrol detains five, secures weapons

AR RUSTAMIYAH – Iraqi Intervention Force soldiers captured five suspected insurgents and several weapons while performing a route security patrol March 30, according to a multinational forces report.

The soldiers with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade confiscated eight AK-47 automatic rifles and a Nissan pickup being used as a gun truck.

## Iraqi Security Forces discover “bomb factory”

PALESTINE – Iraqi soldiers raided a house being used as a ‘bomb factory’ during a cordon and search operation March 30, according to a multinational forces report.

The soldiers, of the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Iraqi Intervention Force’s 1<sup>st</sup> Division, engaged in a battle with suspected insurgents while taking control of the house. One suspect was killed and one was detained. One Iraqi soldier was injured and is in stable condition at a local hospital.

## Iraqi SWAT team stops group, seizes weapons

BABYLON – An Iraqi SWAT team stopped a group of about 230 people walking into the Al Hilla area March 28 and confiscated a number of weapons they were carrying, according to a multinational forces report.

The SWAT team acted on orders from the Provincial Chief that no weapons would be carried through his town by those walking the religious route to Karbala. They seized four machine guns, three rocket-propelled grenade launchers and 12 rockets, 15 AK-47 automatic rifles and five pistols.

The men were dressed in black, wearing bandanas and shirts with pictures of terrorist leader Muqtada Al Sadr on them, the report said. No one was injured during the incident.

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi Police Service graduates 2,906

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 2,906 new police officers in March from basic police training courses in Baghdad, Sulaymaniyah, Al Kut, Al Asad and Jordan.

Completing the eight-week training courses were 945 police recruits from Baghdad Police College, 246 from Sulaymaniyah Regional Police Training Center, 144 from Al Kut Regional Police Training Center, 69 from Al Asad Regional Training Center, and 1,502 from the Jordan International Police Training Center. The Baghdad class included 18 female police recruits.

The basic police training program is designed to provide fundamental and democratic policing skills, based on international human rights standards, to prepare students for assuming police officer responsibilities. The program consists of academic study combined with a strong focus on tactical operational skills. The basic police training curriculum was recently modified to include more hands-on and practical training exercises that address specific survival skills needed by today's Iraqi Police Service officers.

To date, more than 26,500 police recruits have completed the eight-week training course developed for new recruits. An additional 36,000 police officers have completed the three-week Transitional Integration Program (TIPs) course, a condensed

version of the longer basic police training course for officers with prior police experience. The new officers will report for duty in the coming weeks for assignments at police stations throughout Iraq.

## IPS graduates 159 from specialty courses

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 159 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility March 31, as part of the Iraqi government's on-going effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Interviews and Interrogations with 33 graduates, Violent Crime Investigation with 33 graduates, Internal Controls Investigation with 48 graduates, Critical Incident Management with 33 graduates and the Z Backscatter course with 12 graduates.

The Interviews and Interrogations course covers advanced interview and interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights, and the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations. So far, 110 students have completed this course since its inception.

The Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques for a variety of situations, particularly violent crimes against persons cases such as armed robbery, rape and murder. There have been 66 students who

have already graduated from this course.

Internal Controls provides training with personnel complaints and allegations, as well as police conduct in general. Training includes the processing of complaints and conducting follow-up investigations to determine the facts of allegations made against members of the Iraqi Police Service. More than 430 officers have already graduated from this course.

Critical Incident Management is designed to provide participants with the understanding of and application skills for managing critical incidents; 33 students previously went through this course.

The Z Backscatter course provides operators the ability to create a photo-like image without a detector on the opposite side of the target. Backscatter x-rays are typically used for high threat and detection applications. They have been particularly successful in highlighting explosive materials, drugs and weapons hidden in vehicles, on people, or people hiding in containers or vehicles.

Several Iraqi border crossings are currently using Z Backscatter technology. Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an eight-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for prior-service officers.

The police officers will immediately report back for continued duty at their respective stations.

## Iraqi equipment rollup

A look at some of the equipment delivered to the  
Iraqi Security Forces this week  
*Information provided by MNSTC-I J-4*

Ammunition .....	530,000 rounds	Chevy SUV Trailblazers.....	26
AK-47s.....	2,610	Nissan pickup trucks.....	4
Individual body armor .....	7,963	Chevy LUV trucks.....	31